

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 00780 081455Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO USINFO WASHDC
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UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 0780

FOR: PGM/RE AND AF, VOA/PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MALAGASY DAILY PRAISES AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

1. ANTANANARIVO'S LEADING DAILY "MADAGASCAR MATIN", SATURDAY MAY 6, SAID THAT THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER HAS BEEN "A BRIDGE BETWEEN THE US AND MADAGASCAR" AND "HAS MAINTAINED A CONTINUOUS HUMAN CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES". "MATIN" ALSO SAID THAT ICA'S CULTURAL ACTIVITIES HAVE GENERATED A CERTAIN AFFECTION IN THE HEARTS OF THE MALAGASY FOR THE CENTER, "THIS AMBASSADOR OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WHO HAS CONTANTLY EXPRESSED ITS DESIRE FOR FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL COMPREHENSION" IN OUR INTERDEPENDENT WORLD.

2. FRENCH QUOTE:"... LE CENTRE CULTUREL AMERICAINE, CE TRAIT D'UNION ENTRE LES USA ET MADAGASCAR, A ENTRETENU UN CONTACT HUMAIN CONTINU ENTRE LES DEUX PAYS A TRAVERS TOUTES CES MANIFESTATIONS CULTURELLES QUI N'ONT PAS ETE SANS LAISSER UN PEU D'ATTACHEMENT AU FOND DU COEUR DE CHACUN POUR CET AMBASSADEUR AU VISAGE MULTIPLE DU PEUPLE AMERICAINE QUI A TOUJOURS VOULU EXPRIMER TOUT SON DESIR D'AMITIE ET DE COMPREHENSION MUTUELLE INTERNATIONALE DANS UN MONDE QUE LA COMMUNICATION REND DE PLUS EN PLUS INTERDEPENDANTE.

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3. THE OCCASION FOR THE ABOVE COMMENTS WAS THE CURRENT RELOCATION OF ICA (FROM ITS PRESENT PREMISES TO 4 DR RAZAFINDRATANDRA STREET, NEAR MADAGASCAR'S HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE), WHICH MATIN QUALIFIES AS "AN IMPORTANT EVENT FOR THE MEMBERS OF ICA'S LIBRARY, FOR ITS ENGLISH STUDENTS AND FOR THE MALAGASY PUBLIC AT

LARGE".

4. IN ITS LONG (1,500 WORDS) ARTICLE, "MADAGASCAR MATIN" LISTS MANY ICA HIGHLIGHTS DURING THESE PAST FEW YEARS (LECTURES, SEMINARS, EXHIBITS, MUSICAL RECITALS, DANCE AND THEATER PERFORMANCES, FILM SHOWINGS) AND NOTES THAT ALL AMERICAN VISITORS - MUSICIANS, ARTISTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, WEAVERS, ETC... - HAVE GIVEN WORKSHOPS WHICH HAVE BEEN MOST BENEFICIAL TO THEIR MALAGASY COUNTERPARTS.

5. IN COMMENTING ON THE WIDE VARIETY OF ICA'S PROGRAMMING, "MATIN" SAYS THAT THE ONLY TRUE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PEOPLE IS CULTURAL EXCHANGE. MATIN PRAISES THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER FOR HAVING HONORABLY DISCARDED ITS TASK BY DIVERSIFYING ITS ACTIVITIES AND BY THUS OFFERING TO THE MALAGASY PUBLIC INFORMATION ON THE CULTURAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL LIFE OF THE UNITED STATES.

6. FRENCH QUOTE: "... ON DIT, ET NOUS LE TENONS POUR VRAI, QUE LE SEUL MOYEN VALABLE DE VRAIE COMMUNICATION ENTRE LES PEUPLES DU MONDE, C'EST L'ECHANGE CULTUREL. IL EST EVIDENT QUE POUR BIEN COMPRENDRE UN PEUPLE, SON ATTITUDE, SES ACTIONS ET SES REACTIONS, IL FAUT FAUT D'ABORD, ET AVANT TOUT, BIEN CONNAITRE SA CULTURE, SES US ET COUTUMES, SON ENVIRONNEMENT NATUREL ET SOCIAL. EN DIVERSIFIANT AU MAXIMUM POUR TOUCHER AU PLUS GRAND NOMBRE POSSIBLE

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DE DOMAINES CULTURELS ON PEUT DONNER UNE IMAGE PRES DE LA VERITE D'UN PAYS ET DE SON PEUPLE. LE CENTRE CULTUREL AMERICAIN S'EST HONORABLEMENT ACQUITTE DE SA TACHE EN NOUS OFFRANT PLUSIEURS ASPECTS DE LA CULTURE, DE LA VIE ECONOMIQUE, POLITIQUE ET SOCIALE DES ETATS-UNIS..."

7. IN CONCLUSION, MATIN'S ARTICLE (ILLUSTRATED BY TWO PHOTOS - OF THE EXTERIOR OF THE PRESENT CENTER AND OF ITS LIBRARY) PRESENTS ICA ANTANANARIVO ITS BEST WISHES FOR "BONNE CONTINUATION".

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